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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

SWALWELL,
A. A. FLETCHER & SON, GENERAL PRINTERS, FOUNDRY LANE,
1951.



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
WHICKHAM,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
OCTOBER, 1951.

*To the Chairman and Members of
the Whickham Urban District Council:*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1950 for your consideration. The vital statistics for the area show few significant changes compared with those of the previous year.

An additional maternal death resulted in a maternal mortality rate double that of 1949, but this, in view of the small number involved, does not carry a corresponding statistical significance.

The increase in the number of deaths from cancer of the lungs corresponds with that experienced throughout the country as a whole during recent years. Although improved methods of diagnosis have doubtless played a part in revealing more of these cases, it seems to be generally accepted that this condition is becoming more prevalent. Among other explanations, increased consumption of tobacco and exposure to exhaust fumes from motor vehicles have been suggested as possible causes.

A considerable increase in the number of infectious diseases notified during the year was largely attributable to the usual biennial epidemic of measles together with an outbreak of dysentery in the area. There was little change in the incidence of the more serious infectious diseases.

In suffering an epidemic of dysentery the area shared the experience of many other districts during the past two years. Fortunately, the disease, which was of the Sonné type, was mild in character and caused no deaths. Its main significance from the

public health aspect is that it suggested a defect in the standard of personal hygiene in the community as a whole. Had the infection been of a more severe type, it might have resulted in many deaths amongst the population at the extremes of life.

Scarlet fever continues to be mild in character and, in most cases, easily controlled by modern drugs. The area continues to be free from diphtheria; no cases have been notified in 1949 and 1950.

Despite a slight increase in the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year, a disproportionate reduction in the death rate suggests that cases of the disease are being recognised in their earlier stages when they are more amenable to treatment.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my Staff for their unfailing co-operation during the period under review, and to those Departments who have supplied information incorporated in this report.

Finally, I would express appreciation, on your behalf, to all individuals and organisations, who, in their respective spheres, have one common aim:- the maintenance of a healthy community in this district.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN WILSON MORRISON,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres: 6,213.

Population—1931 Census: 20,750.

Population—Registrar-General's estimate for mid-1950: 23,040.

Number of inhabited houses:

Council, 1,647; Other, 4,875; Total, 6,522.

Rateable Value: £98,970.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £370.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE AREA

There has not been any alteration in the boundaries during 1950. The boundaries remain as formerly, i.e., to the North, the River Tyne; to the West, the River Derwent; to the East, the County Borough of Gateshead and the Rural District of Chester-le-Street; to the South, by the Stanley Urban District. The Area is divided into four Wards.

1—Dunston : This Ward has the largest proportion of the population of the District and is chiefly industrial. The population finds its employment at Flour Mills, Soap Works, the Electrical Power Station and in Shipping.

2—Swalwell : The Chief industries are Coal-mining, Engineering, Brick-making and Metal-working. A screening plant used in connection with open-cast coal workings is situated in the northerly part of the Ward.

3—Whickham : Is semi-rural in character, residential and partly industrial, including Coal-mining.

4—Marley Hill : This Ward is very scattered and essentially rural. Coal-mining is the chief industry.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The average monthly number of unemployed shows an increase of 5 compared with that of 1949. The following information has been supplied by Mr. Fishpool, Manager of the Local Employment Exchange at Dunston:

| YEAR | AVERAGE MONTHLY FIGURE OF UNEMPLOYMENT | YEAR | AVERAGE MONTHLY FIGURE OF UNEMPLOYMENT |
|------|--|------|--|
| 1941 | 50 | 1946 | 200 |
| 1942 | 48 | 1947 | 160 |
| 1943 | 70 | 1948 | 196 |
| 1944 | 50 | 1949 | 160 |
| 1945 | 160 | 1950 | 165 |

The number of unemployed in December, 1950, was 163 and of this number 50% were considered to be unfit for normal industrial employment due to physical defects or their inclusion in the older age groups.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of births registered was 357 and the natural increase of population (i.e., excess of births over deaths) 77. There were 9 still-births.

The birth rate was 15.49 per 1,000 population as compared with 16.90 for 1949. Comparison tables are given.

| Live Births - Whickham U.D. Area. | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-------|-------------------------------|--------|-------|
| | 1949 | | | 1950 | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Legitimate | 191 | 189 | 380 | 175 | 173 | 348 |
| Illegitimate | 6 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Total | 197 | 191 | 388 | 181 | 176 | 357 |
| Birth Rate | 16.90 per 1,000 population | | | 15.49 per 1,000 population | | |

Still Births - Whickham U.D. Area.

| | 1949 | | | 1950 | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------|-------|---------------------------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Legitimate | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — |
| Total | 5 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Still Birth Rate | 0.34 per 1,000 population | | | 0.39 per 1,000 population | | |

1950 - Still and Live Births - Whickham, compared with Country generally. Rates per 1,000 population.

| | Whickh'm | County Durham | England and Wales | 126 Cty. Boro's and Grt. Towns inclu'g London | 148 Smaller T's Resident pop'n 25,000 - 50,000 |
|--------------|----------|---------------|-------------------|---|--|
| Live Births | 15.49 | 17.80 | 15.80 | 17.60 | 16.70 |
| Still Births | 00.39 | 00.48 | 00.37 | 00.45 | 00.38 |

Deaths

The total number of deaths during 1950 was 280, and the death rate 12.15 as compared with 12.20 for 1949.

Infantile Mortality

There were 15 infantile deaths recorded (7 male and 8 female) giving an infantile mortality rate of 42.00 as compared with 36.00 last year.

Maternal Mortality

Two maternal deaths were recorded, giving a maternal mortality rate of 5.47 as compared with 2.32 for 1949. The figure for England and Wales for the year 1950 was 0.86 and for Durham County 1.15.

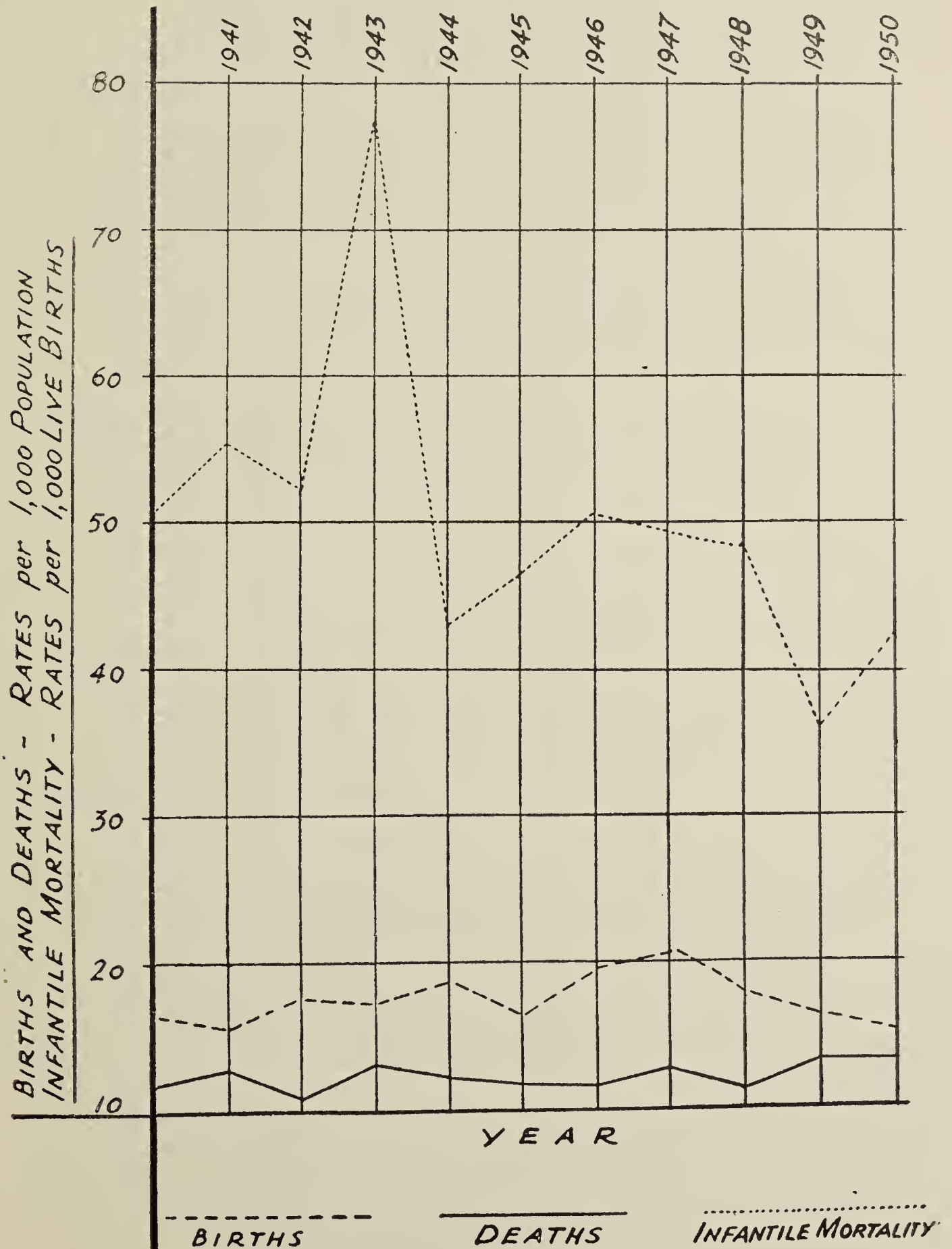
**THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF
DEATH DURING 1950.**

| CAUSES OF DEATH | | MALES | FEMALES |
|-----------------|---|-------|---------|
| 1 | Tuberculosis (Respiratory) | 8 | 4 |
| 2 | Tuberculosis (Other) | — | — |
| 3 | Syphilitic Disease | — | — |
| 4 | Diphtheria | — | — |
| 5 | Whooping Cough | — | — |
| 6 | Meningo Coccac Infection | — | — |
| 7 | Acute Poliomyelitis | — | — |
| 8 | Measles | 1 | — |
| 9 | Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .. | — | — |
| 10 | Malignant Neoplasm Stomach | 6 | 2 |
| 11 | Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ... | 7 | 1 |
| 12 | Malignant Neoplasm, Breast | — | 6 |
| 13 | Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus | — | 5 |
| 14 | Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms | 13 | 5 |
| 15 | Leukaemia and Aleukaemia | — | — |
| 16 | Diabetes | — | 1 |
| 17 | Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System | 23 | 23 |
| 18 | Coronary Disease, Angina | 19 | 10 |
| 19 | Hypertension with Heart Disease .. | 3 | 7 |
| 20 | Other Heart Diseases | 17 | 23 |
| 21 | Other Circulatory Diseases | 4 | 3 |
| 22 | Influenza | 1 | 1 |
| 23 | Pneumonia | 5 | 5 |
| 24 | Bronchitis | 9 | 10 |
| 25 | Other Diseases of Respiratory System ... | 1 | 1 |
| 26 | Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum | 3 | — |
| 27 | Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .. | — | — |
| 28 | Nephritis and Nephrosis | 3 | 1 |
| 29 | Hyperplasia of Prostate | 7 | — |
| 30 | Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion .. | — | 2 |
| 31 | Congenital Malformations | 2 | 2 |
| 32 | Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases . | 16 | 10 |
| 33 | Motor Vehicle Accidents | 2 | — |
| 34 | All Other Accidents | 4 | 1 |
| 35 | Suicide | 2 | 1 |
| 36 | Homicide and Operations of War | — | — |
| | | 156 | 124 |

1950 DEATHS—WHICKHAM U.D. COMPARED WITH REST OF COUNTRY

| | Whickham | County Durham | England and Wales | 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, inc. London | 148 Smaller Towns Resident population 25,000 to 50,000 |
|---|----------|---------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Deaths from all causes per 1,000 population ... | 12.15 | 11.8 | 11.6 | 12.3 | 11.6 |
| Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births | 42.00 | 40.0 | 29.8 | 33.8 | 29.4 |

GRAPH SHOWING RISE AND FALL IN BIRTH AND DEATH RATES AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES, 1941 - 1950



SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

All specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne. This Government service is free of cost to practitioners and the Council.

Bacteriological Examinations from Whickham District, 1950.

| Year 1950 | Blood | | | | Faeces | | | | | | Urine | | | | | |
|------------------|--|----------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|----------------|---|----------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|--|--|--|
| | Serological Examina's Enteric Fever | | Cul're | | Ent'ic | Dysen- tery | Food Poison- ing Salmon- ella, T. Murium | Organ- isms | | Ent'ic | Organ- isms | | r. B. | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Pos itive | Negative | No. of Specimens | Positive | No. of Specimens | Positive | No. of Specimens | Positive | No. of Specimens | Positive | No. of Specimen | Positive | No. of Specimen | | | |
| | Para- Typh's | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1st Quarter | | | | | 27 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2nd Quarter | | | | | 201 | 82 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 3rd Quarter | | | | | 56 | 15 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| 4th Quarter | | | | | 90 | 38 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | 374 | 146 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 | | | | | |

| Year 1950 | Swabs (Throat, Nasal, Ear) | | | | | | | Sputum | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| | Diphtheria (Culture) | Diphtheria (Virulence) | Haemo- lytic Strepto- cocci | Vincent's Angina | Organ's | T.B. | T.B. ★ | No. of Specimens | Positive | Positive No. of Specimens | Positive No. of Specimens | No. of Specimens | Positive |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No of Specimens | Positive | No of Persons | Positive | No of Specimens | Positive | No. of Specimens | Positive | No. of Specimens | Positive | No. of Specimens | Positive | | |
| 1st Qtr. | 3 | | | | 1 | | 8 | | 29 | 5 | | 68 | 16 |
| 2nd Qtr. | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | 4 | | 21 | 3 | | 232 | 89 |
| 3rd Qtr. | 4 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | | 13 | 4 | | 81 | 23 |
| 4th Qtr. | 4 | | 8 | 2 | 3 | 2 | | | 39 | 6 | | 149 | 51 |
| Total | 12 | | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 15 | | 102 | 18 | | 530 | 179 |

★ Specimens taken at Whickham Chest Clinic.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance services are provided by the Durham County Council. Included in this service is the transport of cases of infectious disease to Norman's Riding Hospital and other Isolation Hospitals.

Nursing in the Home

The administration of District Nursing also comes within the province of the Durham County Council. The Home Help service is also available and there is a constant demand for assistance in view of the difficulty in obtaining admission of cases of chronic illnesses to hospital at the present time.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

Facilities for the treatment of minor ailments in school children, together with sun-ray, maternity and child welfare, and dental treatment are made available by Durham County Council at various centres within or adjacent to the area.

Hospital Accommodation

(a) Infectious Diseases. The majority of these cases are admitted, as in the past, to Norman's Riding Hospital, which is administered by the Gateshead and District Hospital Management Committee.

(b) Tuberculosis. Provision is made for the hospital treatment of cases in various sanatoria within the County of Durham. There is also a chest clinic situated at Whickham for the supervision of domiciliary cases. Norman's Riding Infectious Diseases Hospital is now used as a Sanatorium for females and children.

(c) General. The Royal Victoria Infirmary and the General Hospital, Newcastle, & the Bensham & Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, Gateshead, receive the greater proportion of medical and surgical cases from the district. A convalescent home at Wylam is available for patients after hospital treatment.

Provision for the treatment of surgical cases is also available at the District War Memorial Cottage Hospital, Whickham.

(d) Midwifery and Gynaecology. Of the midwifery and gynaecological cases sent to hospital, most find their way to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle, the gynaecological department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, the Bensham Hospital, Gateshead, or the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead.

(e) Venereal Disease. Patients may be referred by their doctors to the Venereal Disease Clinic at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year was 478 as compared with 202 in 1949. The details were as follows:

| DISEASE | No. OF CASES | | REMARKS |
|----------------------------|--------------|------|---|
| | 1950 | 1949 | |
| Scarlet Fever | 46 | 29 | { 1950 All cases confirmed 1949 do. |
| Whooping Cough | 60 | 52 | |
| Diphtheria | — | — | |
| Measles | 240 | 88 | |
| Acute Pneumonia | 17 | 22 | |
| Meningo-coccal Infection | 3 | 4 | { 1950 Two cases con- firmed; one not confirmed. 1949 Cases confirmed. |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 4 | 2 | |
| Acute Encephalitis | — | — | { 1950 Two confirmed; two not confirmed. 1949 Both confirmed. |
| Dysentery | 95 | 1 | |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | — | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | 1 | |
| Smallpox | — | — | |
| Para-typhoid fevers | — | — | |
| Enteric Fever | — | — | |
| Food poisoning | 6 | 2 | |
| Erysipelas | 5 | 1 | |
| Chicken Pox | — | — | |
| Malaria | — | — | |
| Totals | 478 | 202 | |

Incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Tuberculosis in the Whickham Area

A graph is given on page 18 showing the incidence of these diseases over the past 10 years.

Diphtheria

For the second year in succession not a single case of this disease occurred in the district.

The Durham County Council are responsible for Diphtheria.

Immunisation which is done by private doctors and at County Council Clinics.

The number of children immunised up to the end of 1950 was :

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|--------------|-----|-----|
| Under 1 year of age | ... | 19 | | | |
| Age 1 year | ... | 177 | Age 8 years | ... | 241 |
| Age 2 years | ... | 269 | Age 9 years | ... | 255 |
| Age 3 years | ... | 346 | Age 10 years | ... | 255 |
| Age 4 years | ... | 291 | Age 11 years | ... | 325 |
| Age 5 years | ... | 98 | Age 12 years | ... | 270 |
| Age 6 years | ... | 203 | Age 13 years | ... | 280 |
| Age 7 years | ... | 262 | Age 14 years | ... | 294 |

During the year the following children were immunised :

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Under 5 years of age | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 205 |
| Between 5-15 years of age | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Re-inforcing injections given to children aged 4-15 | | | | | | |
| years | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 131 |

Dysentery

95 cases of dysentery were notified as compared with a single case in 1949. All cases were confirmed by laboratory examinations. Routine investigations failed to ascertain the primary source of infection. The water supply, sanitary arrangements, milk supply and other foods were not associated with the spread of the disease. Fortunately the disease was of a mild character and only one case received hospital treatment. The outbreak was general throughout the Tyneside area.

Scarlet Fever

An increasing number of cases of this disease are being treated at home. In recent years the disease has become progressively milder in virulence and providing proper isolation arrangements can be made and there is no risk to public health, there appears to be little objection to this procedure.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1950.

| DISEASES | Total Cases notified | AGE GROUPS. | | | | | | | | | Cases admitted to hospital. |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| | | Under 1 year | 1-5 years | 5-15 years | 15-25 years | 25-35 years | 35-45 years | 45-55 years | 55-65 years | 65 and over | |
| Scarlet Fever | 46 | | 21 | 19 | 5 | | | | | 1 | 33 |
| Puerperal Fever | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Erysipelas | 5 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 3 |
| Measles | 240 | 12 | 135 | 89 | | | | | | 4 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 17 | 2 | | | | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis... .. | 4 | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| Whooping Cough | 60 | 7 | 40 | 11 | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 |
| Meningo Coccal Infection... | 3 | | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | 3 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Dysentery | 95 | 4 | 27 | 25 | 6 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Food Poisoning | 6 | | | 1 | | 1 | 3 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Totals | 478 | 26 | 225 | 145 | 12 | 20 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 5 | 49 |

Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1950.

| Diseases. | MONTHS. | | | | | | | | | | | | Totals | WARDS | | | | Corrected Figure (Totals) |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| | Jan'y | Feb'y | March | April | May | June | July | Aug't | Sept. | Oct'er | Nov'r | Dec'r | | Dunston | Whick'm | Swalwell | Mar. Hill | |
| Scarlet Fever | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | | 5 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 46 | 20 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 46 |
| Puerperal Fever | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Erysipelas | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 5 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 5 |
| Measles | 15 | 28 | 10 | 5 | 23 | 20 | 45 | 26 | 17 | 42 | 9 | | 240 | 98 | 61 | 57 | 24 | 240 |
| Pneumonia | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 17 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 17 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 4 | 3 | | | 1 | 2 |
| Whooping Cough | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 60 | 34 | 7 | 4 | 15 | 60 |
| Meningo Coccal Infection ... | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Ophthalmia Neon'm | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Dysentery | | | 7 | 26 | 19 | 11 | 2 | 6 | 1 | | 6 | 17 | 95 | 24 | 55 | 11 | 5 | 95 |
| Food Poisoning | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | | | 6 |
| Totals | 30 | 39 | 23 | 35 | 58 | 43 | 52 | 44 | 35 | 57 | 28 | 34 | 478 | 194 | 136 | 84 | 64 | 475 |

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 45 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 6 of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified. The detailed figures are tabulated on the following page.

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, with regard to the employment of tuberculous persons in dairies etc., nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Tuberculosis. Cases notified during 1950.

| | Total | Dunston | Whic'ham | Swalwell | Mar. Hill |
|---------------------|-------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Respiratory ... | 45 | 30 | 6 | 9 | — |
| Non-Respiratory ... | 6 | 3 | — | 2 | 1 |
| Total | 51 | 33 | 6 | 11 | 1 |

New Cases (including inward Transfers) and Mortality during 1950

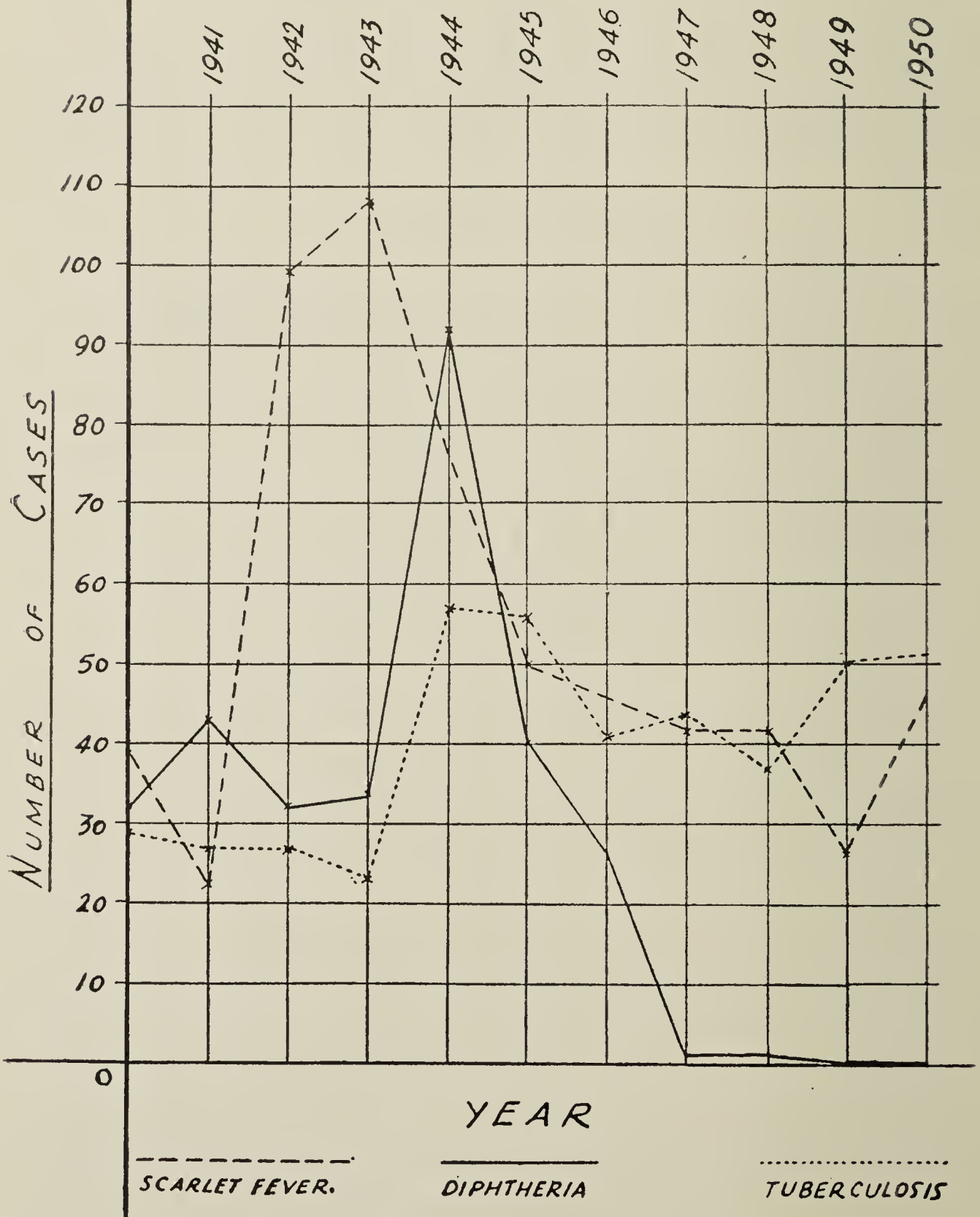
| Age Periods | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|-------------|------------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 yr. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 — 5 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 — 15 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 15 — 25 | 4 | 10 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25 — 35 | 7 | 1 | — | 1 | 5 | 2 | — | — |
| 35 — 45 | 5 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| 45 — 55 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| 55 — 65 | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 65 and over | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Totals | 26 | 19 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 4 | — | 1 |

| Sex | No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at commence- ment of year. | | No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at end of year 1950 | |
|------------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| | Pulmonary | Non-Pul- monary | Pulmonary | Non-Pul- monary |
| Male ... | 156 | 94 | 166 | 95 |
| Female ... | 124 | 98 | 135 | 99 |
| Totals | 280 | 192 | 301 | 194 |

Removals from Register.

| Reasons. | Totals | Pulmonary | | Non-Pul- monary | |
|---------------------------|--------|-----------|----|--------------------|----|
| | | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Died | 14 | 9 | 4 | — | 1 |
| Diagnosis not confirmed | — | — | — | — | — |
| Removed from district ... | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | — |
| Recovered | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Totals | 28 | 16 | 8 | 3 | 1 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE WHICKHAM
URBAN DISTRICT AREA



SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1—Water Supply

The Dunston, Swalwell and greater part of Whickham wards are supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and Marley Hill ward by the Durham County Water Board. Both supplies have proved to be of satisfactory quality and quantity. No samples were taken by the Department but both undertakings have furnished details of bacteriological examinations to which their samples have been subjected and the results show the water to be of good, wholesome quality. The following additional details are given:

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| Extensions to water mains | ... | ... | ... | 1,900 lin. ft. |
| Houses supplied by direct main | ... | ... | ... | 6522 |
| Houses supplied by standpipe | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Houses supplied by wells and springs | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Population supplied by direct main | ... | ... | ... | 22970 |
| Population supplied by standpipe | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| Population supplied by wells and springs | ... | ... | ... | 24 |

2—Closet Accommodation

At the end of the year there were in the Area 6,788 water closets and 132 privy ash closets (the latter figure has been amended and shows a reduction of 41 on the previous year's figure).

3—Public Cleansing and Salvage

The following information relating to Public Cleansing has been supplied by the Council's Surveyor.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|-------|
| Tons of refuse collected | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10820 |
| Number of separate premises served | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6623 |
| Kitchen waste salvaged | ... | ... | ... | 142 tons 4 cwts. | |
| Other materials salvaged | ... | ... | ... | 88 tons 16 cwts. | |

All refuse is disposed of by crude tipping at Dunston, Sunnyside and Byermoor.

4—Sanitary Inspection of Area

Number and Nature of Inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during the year

Public Health Act, 1936

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|
| Sanitation and Buildings | ... | ... | ... | .. | } | 545 | |
| Nuisances and offensive trades | ... | ... | ... | .. | | | |
| Infectious diseases | ... | ... | ... | .. | | | |
| Watercourses, ditches, ponds | ... | ... | ... | .. | | | |
| Revisits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 901 | |
| Ineffectual visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 79 | |
| | | | | | | <hr/> | 1525 |

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Dairies and Milkshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | |
| Re Milk Sampling | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100 | |
| | | | | | | <hr/> | 106 |

Milk

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| (Special Designations) Regulations Visits | ... | | | | | | 2 |
|---|-----|--|--|--|--|--|---|

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Visits in connection with surrender of unsound food and premises registered under Sec. 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 76 | |
| Revisits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 | |
| Ineffectual Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | |
| | | | | | | <hr/> | 103 |

Factories Act, 1937

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|
| Sanitary Conveniences | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 | |
| Revisits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| | | | | | | <hr/> | 13 |

Shops Act, 1950

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|
| Health and Welfare provisions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 | |
| Ineffectual Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | |
| | | | | | | <hr/> | 16 |

Housing Acts, 1936 - 1949

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|---|
| Unfit Property | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | 7 |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|---|

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Visits 14

Miscellaneous Matters

Visits 1

Housing Management

Visits in connection with the operation of the Council's
coding scheme, conditions of tenancy, etc. ... 768

Ineffectual Visits 75

843

Total visits ... 2630

**Summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department
during 1950**

| PUBLIC HEALTH ACT. | | Number of Informal written notices by Inspector | Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority | Number of Nuisances abated after Notice | General Remarks |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| Dwelling-houses and Schools. | Foul Conditions Structural Defects Overcrowding ... | — 235 — | — 9 — | — 209 — | |
| Dairies and Milkshops ... | ... | — | — | — | |
| Bakehouses ... | ... | — | — | — | |
| Ashpits and Privies ... | ... | — | — | — | |
| Waterclosets... | ... | 61 | 8 | 57 | |
| Defective Yard Paving ... | ... | 32 | 1 | 25 | |
| House Drainage { | Defective Traps ... | — | — | — | |
| | No disconnection from sewers | — | — | — | |
| | Other Faults ... | 35 | 1 | 32 | |
| Water Supply ... | ... | 23 | — | 23 | |
| Animals improperly kept | ... | 12 | — | 7 | { Mainly in connec- tion with Council Houses Conditions of Tenancy |
| Smoke Nuisances ... | ... | 1 | — | — | |
| Dilapidated Dust Bins ... | ... | 68 | 1 | 67 | |
| Cesspools emptied ... | .. | 1 | — | 1 | |
| TOTALS | | 468 | 20 | 421 | |

| | Number | Remarks. |
|---|--------|--|
| WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS | | |
| Samples of Water taken for analysis | — | |
| “ “ condemned as unfit for use ... | — | ★ A quantity of food was surrendered voluntarily |
| Seizures of Unwholesome Food ... | —★ | See under Section F. |
| PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE | | |
| Lots of Infectious Bedding disinfected or destroyed ... | — | |
| Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ... | 56 | |
| Schools do. do. | — | |
| Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or articles | — | |
| Convictions for do. do do. | — | |

General

During the year 460 complaints of disrepair or alleged nuisances were received and in each case investigations were made. As a result of these investigations and routine inspections 389 informal and 20 statutory notices were served. Details of the works executed in compliance with notices is shown in the following schedule. A greater amount of work was done in 1950 than in the previous year as the result of Health Department action. During the year a total of 2,630 inspections were made as against 2,145 in 1949, an increase of 485. It is becoming increasingly difficult to secure early compliance with informal notices, due mainly to the high cost of repair works, which are now about treble 1939 prices, and the shortage of some building materials. Follow-up work has not been as prompt as is desirable owing to the large amount of work on hand. The deterioration of many of the older dwelling houses in the district is progressively increasing and this will, no doubt, result in more calls on the Department's services in the future.

A number of complaints were received in connection with the offensive condition of and spillage from the communal kitchen waste bins which are placed in the residential districts. Many of these bins are the source of an offensive smell and in the warmer months attract flies, they are frequently knocked over by traffic, children and large dogs and their decomposing contents strewn about the vicinity. The bin lids are often ill-fitting or missing. This practice is, in my opinion, a potential danger to public health and should be discontinued.

Nature of Work done as the Result of Formal and Informal Notices

(a) Dwelling Houses

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Internal water-closet provided | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Water-closet structures repaired | ... | ... | ... | 61 |
| Broken W.C. pedestal fittings replaced | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Leaking W.C. cone joints repaired | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Broken W.C. seats replaced | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Leaking W.C. flush pipes repaired | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Defective W.C. flushing cisterns repaired or replaced | ... | ... | ... | 38 |
| Water-closet structure properly ventilated | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Disused W.C. fitting removed and drain sealed | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Privy middens converted into water closets | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Choked drains unstopped or cleansed | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Broken manhole covers replaced | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Drains repaired or altered | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Cesspools cleansed and emptied | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Stopper fixed to rodding-eye of drainage intercepting trap | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| New waste gullies provided | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Waste gullies repaired | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| New sinks and waste pipes provided | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Sinks and waste-pipes repaired or lengthened | ... | ... | ... | 43 |
| Sink draining boards replaced | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Defective sink supports repaired or rebuilt | ... | ... | ... | 3 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Broken wash hand basins replaced | 1 |
| Bathroom complete with wash hand basin provided | 1 |
| Bath waste-pipes repaired or lengthened | 1 |
| Burst water pipes repaired | 28 |
| Defective water taps repaired or replaced | 11 |
| Domestic hot water systems installed | 1 |
| Domestic hot water systems overhauled | 2 |
| Domestic hot water supply cisterns repaired | 2 |
| Leaking hot water supply pipes repaired | 1 |
| Domestic hot water system back-boilers replaced ... | 1 |
| Rainwater spouting repaired and made watertight | 119 |
| House roofs repaired and made weatherproof ... | 107 |
| House roofs stripped and re-slatted | 2 |
| House walls, brickwork/stonework, repaired or pointed | 16 |
| External walls rendered in cement | 1 |
| Cement plinth formed to external wall | 1 |
| Ground level lowered to below damp-proof course | 1 |
| Internal walls rendered in waterproofed cement ... | 4 |
| Internal wall surface treated for dampness | 1 |
| Internal walls rebuilt | 2 |
| Walls underpinned to prevent subsidence | 1 |
| Wall plaster repaired | 113 |
| Ceiling plaster repaired | 56 |
| Wooden floors repaired | 74 |
| Concrete floors repaired or reformed | 9 |
| Wooden floor replaced by concrete floor | 1 |
| Defective skirting board repaired | 1 |
| Broken air ventilators replaced | 3 |
| Sub-floor ventilation improved | 2 |
| Verge pointing made good | 5 |
| Windows repaired or re-corded | 59 |
| Stone bay window mullions pointed | 1 |
| House doors repaired or made weatherproof ... | 25 |
| Kitchen ranges/ovens repaired | 24 |

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Other fireplaces repaired or replaced | ... | ... | 19 |
| Chimney flues repaired or obstructions removed | ... | ... | 10 |
| Chimney stack brickwork repaired or rebuilt | ... | ... | 4 |
| Broken chimney pots replaced | ... | ... | 4 |
| Cowls fitted to chimney pots to prevent down-draught | ... | ... | 2 |
| Defective hearths re-formed | ... | ... | 1 |
| Stair Handrails repaired/made secure | ... | ... | 16 |
| Stair treads reformed | ... | ... | 6 |
| Staircase brickwork repaired | ... | ... | 1 |
| Sculleries rebuilt | ... | ... | 1 |
| Door steps reformed | ... | ... | 2 |
| Food stores repaired | ... | ... | 3 |
| Ventilated food stores provided | ... | ... | 5 |
| Wash boilers repaired/replaced | ... | ... | 8 |
| Wash house structures repaired | ... | ... | 4 |
| Coal store structures repaired | ... | ... | 47 |
| Concrete paths reformed | ... | ... | 3 |
| Yard surfaces reformed/repared | ... | ... | 36 |
| Yard walls rebuilt/repared | ... | ... | 7 |
| Yard doors and casings repaired | ... | ... | 16 |
| New dust bins provided | ... | ... | 121 |

(b) Food Premises and Shops

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---|
| Sufficient hot water supply provided | ... | ... | 7 |
| Suitable washing facilities provided | ... | ... | 2 |
| Sanitary accommodation improved | ... | ... | 1 |
| Sanitary accommodation cleansed/repared | ... | ... | 1 |
| Food preparation rooms redecorated | ... | ... | 4 |
| Food preparation rooms reconstructed, lighting and ventilation improved | ... | ... | 1 |
| Refuse storage arrangements improved | ... | ... | 5 |

(c) Other Matters

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|---|
| Pigs removed from unsuitable location within 60 feet of dwelling house | ... | ... | 2 |
|--|-----|-----|---|

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Keeping of poultry in unsatisfactory manner discontinued | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Disused bakehouse demolished and fittings removed | | | | | | 1 |
| Offensive accumulations removed | ... | ... | ... | | | 2 |
| Culvert renewed and enlarged to prevent flooding | | | | | | 1 |
| Derelict buildings demolished | ... | ... | ... | | | 3 |
| Dangerous brickwork removed | ... | ... | ... | | | 1 |

5—Factories Act, 1937

The following table shows the numbers of factories of various classes which are on the Council's register. Five inspections were made during the year.

| PREMISES | NUMBER OF | | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Premises on Register | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| 1. Factories with Mechanical power ... | 68 | 5 | 2 | — |
| 2. Factories without Mechanical power ... | 2 | — | — | — |
| 3. Other premises under the Act, including works building and engineering construction, but not including out-workers premises ... | 2 | — | — | — |
| 4. Outworkers premises ... | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL ... | 72 | 5 | 2 | — |

6—Shops Acts and Orders

During the year thirteen visits were made to shops in connection with the health and welfare provisions of the Shops Act, 1950.

The Council is a Shops Act Authority and in this connection the shops have generally been observed re half-day closing, closing hours, Sunday trading, etc.: no contraventions were detected. The majority of shops in the area, following war-time practice, close well before the statutory closing hours. No complaints were received from traders or assistants during the year.

7—Moveable Dwellings

One licence for a six month's period was issued to the occupier of a trailer-caravan in the Sunnyside district and one application for a licence was refused on health grounds. Frequent enquiries continue to be received regarding the siting of trailer-vans in the area, mainly from persons who desire to occupy them as homes until such time as they secure housing accommodation. In addition to Public Health Act, 1936, licences, moveable dwelling sites are subject to town planning control.

8—Offensive Trades

No complaints have been received regarding the activities of either the Soap Boiling or the Fat and Tallow Melting trades which have both been conducted in a satisfactory manner.

9—Atmospheric Pollution

Not one instance of excessive smoke emission was observed during the year. A complaint caused by the effluvia from the burning of rubber material at a local works was investigated. The premises are in close proximity to dwelling houses, but following representations to the management no further offences were reported up to the year end.

Coke and gas works adjacent to the boundaries of the district are still the source of offensive effluvia which, dependent on wind direction, affects various parts of the district.

10—Rodent Control

During the year 55 rat and 98 mice infestations in dwelling-houses and business premises were treated successfully by the Rodent Operative in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture methods. The costs for this work were recovered from the occupiers or owners.

The sewers throughout the district were, in April and September, test-baited and poisoned to eliminate rats; on both occasions

only light infestations were found. This duty is necessary in order to qualify for a Treasury grant for rodent control work.

Regular attention has been paid to the Council's tips and other properties likely to harbour rats; when found, infestations have usually been light.

The area remains comparatively free from serious rat infestations and it is evident that control measures have been effective. Mice infestations in dwelling houses are undoubtedly extensive, but many householders do not report infestations as they are not prepared to pay for the Rodent Operative's services.

The Council established the post of Rodent Operative and Disinfection Officer on 19th December, 1950.

11—Insect Pest Control

Beetle infestations, one of the commonest household pests, were dealt with in 27 houses and bugs were successfully eradicated in nine houses. Other insect pests were also dealt with. In all cases D.D.T. insecticides are used. One refuse tip was sprayed to minimise fly breeding.

SECTION E.

HOUSING AND HOUSING MANAGEMENT

The Chief Sanitary Inspector was again responsible for the allocation of Council house tenancies. This duty has occupied a great deal of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's time, mainly due to the increased number of allocations made. He has also attempted to deal with other matters arising out of his house letting duties; there is much scope for expanding welfare and other aspects of housing management work.

Number of houses built in the Area during 1950:

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|----|
| Houses built by private enterprise | ... | ... | 9 |
| Permanent houses built by Whickham U.D.C. | | | 68 |
| (All in the Dunston Ward) | | | |
| Total | ... | | 77 |

Comparative figures: 1937 to 1950:

| Houses Built | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | Total |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Whickham U.D.C. | 110 | — | 37 | — | — | 73 | 80 | 50 | 68 | 418 |
| Private Enterprise | 219 | 122 | 43 | 1 | 12 | 26 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 448 |
| Total | 329 | 122 | 80 | 1 | 12 | 99 | 88 | 58 | 77 | 866 |

Details of allocations made in 1950:

| Ward. | Bungalows | 2 bedrooms self-contained | 2 bedrooms Do'nstairs Flats | 3 bedrooms self-contained | 3 bedrooms Upstairs Flats | 4 bedrooms self-contained | Ex-Army Huts | 2 bedrooms Aluminium Pre-fabs. | Total |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Dunston | 3 | 43 | 9 | 52 | 16 | 14 | — | — | 137 |
| Whickham | 1 | 9 | — | 8 | — | — | 5 | — | 23 |
| Swalwell .. | — | 4 | — | 7 | — | 2 | — | — | 13 |
| Marley Hill ... | — | 9 | — | 3 | — | 2 | — | 3 | 17 |
| Total ... | 4 | 65 | 9 | 70 | 16 | 18 | 5 | 3 | 190 |

The previous tables show that 68 new houses were handed over for letting during the year and that 190 tenancies were allocated; this is a considerable increase in the 1949 figures which were 50 and 151 respectively. Nineteen pre-war houses became vacant and four huts at Fellside Camp became available for letting. The Council's policy of making the best use of available accommodation by transferring tenants to relieve overcrowding and deal with under-occupation, was fully implemented as the increase of 39 allocations over the previous year's figure indicates. The large number of transfers entailed a great deal of preliminary work; the tenants concerned co-operated well and in no case was it necessary to resort to compulsion to effect a transfer. The Council house census cards were revised during the year; up-to-date information is essential when tenancies are being transferred. The list of housing applications was also partially revised and as a result it was possible to remove a number of obsolete applications; a constant review of applications is necessary to keep the numbers on the waiting list within reasonable limits.

At Fellside Camp the remaining three occupied Nissen huts were closed for habitation during the year. Thirty-five families now occupy these hutments. The deterioration of many of the huts, which are now over ten years old, is becoming extensive and will involve increasing maintenance costs. Further lettings of the huts should be discontinued.

Owing to the housing shortage no slum clearance or housing re-conditioning under the Housing Act, 1936, was undertaken; there appears to be little prospect of an early resumption of this work. Two houses were reconditioned voluntarily by the owner. The owners of a number of dilapidated dwelling houses have undertaken to put their properties out of use for habitation should they become vacant. A survey of houses in the district would enable a schedule of future slum clearance and housing improvement schemes to be drawn up.

There is no up-to-date information to show the number of overcrowded houses in the district. The degree of overcrowding is taken into consideration when assessing housing applications, and as the result of tenancy allocations 67 cases of overcrowding have been abated, 46 in private houses and 21 in Council houses. There is little overcrowding in the Council's properties.

Houses were allocated to a number of families on health grounds, chiefly where active pulmonary tuberculosis existed and there was inadequate bedroom accommodation.

SECTION F.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

There are six registered dairies and 12 retail distributors of milk in the district. During the year there was one withdrawal and one addition to the register. The supervision of milk production at the 15 dairy farms in the district is exercised by the Ministry of Agriculture.

With the exception of one dealer who sells loose milk from a shop all milk sold by retail in the district is bottled or in similar containers. The more hygienic type of bottle with the overlapping metal foil cap is replacing the disc capped bottle. Several **retailers** have obtained improved types of delivery vehicles.

There was again an increase in the number of licences issued for the sale of designated milks; only a small proportion of the milk retailed in the district is ungraded.

During the year the following annual licences for designated milks were issued:

| | 1950 | 1949 |
|--|------|------|
| Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers' Licences | 9 | 7 |
| Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers' Supplementary Licences | 2 | 1 |
| Pasteurised Milk Dealers' Licences | 9 | 8 |
| Pasteurised Milk Dealers' Supplementary Licences ... | 3 | 2 |
| Sterilised Milk Dealers' Licences | 39 | 37 |

During the year 100 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination. The proportion of failures in the methylene blue test was higher than in 1949, but the unsatisfactory results were mainly confined to the undesignated milks for which there are no legal standards. All samples of designated processed milks satisfied the phosphatase test and those samples submitted to the biological examination were free from tubercle infection.

Milk Sampling, 1950.—Results of Bacteriological Examinations

| Type of Milk | No. of Samples Taken | Tests to which submitted— | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------|---------------|--------|------------------|--------|---|--------|
| | | Methylene Blue Test | | B. Coli, Test | | Phosphatase Test | | Animal Inoculation for Tubercle bacilli | |
| | | Passed | Failed | Passed | Failed | Passed | Failed | Passed | Failed |
| Ungraded ... | 24 | 18 | 6 | 21 | 3 | — | — | 7 | — |
| Accredited ... | 7 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Tuberculin-tes'd | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 2 | — |
| T.T.(Pasteuri'd) | 9 | 7 | 1 | — | — | 9 | — | 1 | — |
| Pasteurised | 37 | 35 | 2 | — | — | 37 | — | 8 | — |
| Other heat-tr'td | 17 | 11 | 5 | — | — | 16 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Sterilised ... | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — * |
| Total | 100 | 79 | 17 | 28 | 6 | 63 | 1 | 20 | — |

* All samples satisfied Turbidity test.

Food Sampling

The Durham County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for the District and enforce the sampling provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department has very kindly furnished the following information.

Number of samples obtained during 1950 ... 88
(82 formal and 6 informal samples)

The following articles were purchased for analysis:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Margarine | 1 Luncheon Meat (Informal) |
| 1 Ground Ginger | 1 Rice |
| 1 Treacle | 1 Self-Raising Flour |
| 1 Rose Hip Syrup | 1 Table Jelly Crystals |
| 1 Vironita (Informal) | 1 Tea |
| 2 Aspirin Tablets | 1 Baking Powder |
| 1 Cascara Sagrada (Informal) | 1 Pea-nut Butter (Informal) |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Epsom Salts | 2 Dessert Gelatine |
| 1 Barley Kernels | 1 Shredded Beef Suet |
| 1 Cod Liver Oil | 1 Macaroni |
| 1 Processed Peas (Informal) | 1 Breadcrumbs |
| 1 Compound Liquorice Powder | 1 Composition Essence |
| 1 Pepper | 1 Gregory's Powder |
| 1 Coffee & Chicory (Informal) | 1 Beef Sausage 62% meat cont. |
| 1 Stoned Dates | 1 Sweetened Sponge Mixture |
| 2 Cornflour | 1 Apple and Prune Custard |
| 1 Scone Flour Mixture | 1 Arrowroot |
| 1 Soyamalt | 1 Cut Peel |
| 1 Flowers of Sulphur | 1 Mincemeat |
| 1 Alkaline Stomach Powder | 1 Ground Almonds |
| 1 Comp. Eucalyptus Ointment | 6 Sterilised Milk |
| 1 Dessicated Coconut | 33 Milk |
| 1 Semolina | 1 Castor Oil |
| 1 Lemon Curd | |

Four samples of sterilised and two samples of ordinary milk were slightly below standard in **non**-fatty solids, but otherwise genuine. No action was taken.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

The slaughter of animals for human consumption is centralised and the Urban District is supplied with meat from the Newcastle abattoirs.

One slaughterhouse at Sunnyside is maintained for casual use for the slaughter of pigs by self-suppliers of bacon. The local office of the Ministry of Food authorised the slaughter of 68 pigs in the Urban area during 1950. As in the previous year not a single request was made for a carcass to be examined before consumption. Two slaughtermen's licences were issued under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, for a twelve months period.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered by traders after

being found to be unfit for human consumption and were either destroyed or utilised for animal feeding purposes. Butchers' meat found to be unfit is returned to the Wholesale Meat Supply Association. Bacon was returned by the normal trade channels to the suppliers in accordance with the Ministry of Food Salvage Department instructions.

Tinned Goods

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|----|------------------------|-----|----|
| Peas | ... | ... | ... | 16 | Condensed Milk | ... | 4 |
| Beans | ... | ... | ... | 3 | Spaghetti in Tomato | ... | 1 |
| Baked Beans | ... | ... | ... | 6 | Spaghetti with Sausage | ... | 1 |
| Beans in Tomato | ... | ... | ... | 4 | Pilchards | ... | 1 |
| Tomatoes | ... | ... | ... | 59 | Meat Lunch | ... | 12 |
| Macedoines | ... | ... | ... | 1 | Pork | ... | 8 |
| Scotch Broth | ... | ... | ... | 6 | Pork Sausages | ... | 5 |
| Plums | ... | ... | ... | 14 | Steak Pudding | ... | 1 |
| Peaches | ... | ... | ... | 5 | Pork Brawn | ... | 2 |
| Pears | ... | ... | ... | 1 | Black Puddings | ... | 1 |
| Prune Juice | ... | ... | ... | 1 | Meat in Gravy | ... | 1 |
| Evaporated Milk | ... | ... | ... | 82 | | | |

Other Foodstuffs

Beef, 139 lbs.; Lamb, 11 lbs. 4 ozs.; Rolled Bacon, 70 lbs. 9 ozs.; Mayonaise, 32 jars.

Ice Cream Premises

At the end of the year the premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, comprised of two manufacturing premises and 30 premises for the sale of ice-cream. During the year eight premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream and one application was refused owing to the unsuitability of the premises.

At 29 of the premises only pre-packed ice-cream is sold, thus the risk of contamination is appreciably reduced. The sale of water ices or "lollies" at registered premises has increased considerably

during the year; the "lollies" are usually prepared at ice-cream manufacturers' premises.

Much of the ice-cream consumed in the area is sold from the vehicles of manufacturers outside the district. There has been a steady improvement in the construction of these vehicles and their equipment.

No samples were taken during the year.

Restaurants and Catering Establishments

In the district there are 90 caterers licensed by the Ministry of Food, 24 of whom serve the general public, the remaining 66 consist of works and school canteens and social and political organisations. The two school meals kitchens are equipped and run on the most hygienic lines, but dining conditions at some of the schools leave something to be desired.

Butchers Premises

There are 19 butchers' shops in the district and these are generally maintained in a satisfactory manner. It has not been possible to make regular routine inspections of these premises. A great deal of meat is purveyed from vans in the area.

Bakehouses

The number of bakehouses in the district is eight and those inspected were found to be satisfactory.

Other Food Premises

These consist mainly of grocers' and confectioners' shops and 12 fried fish shops. As the result of action taken a sufficient supply of hot water was provided in seven shops, but in many shops visited it was found that a hot water supply had been made available previous to the inspection.

Food Hygiene

The Council adopted the model byelaws of the Ministry of Food in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air and these came into operation on the 16th April, 1950. The issue to all food traders of a circular dealing with food hygiene was authorised. Owing to the shortage of staff it was not possible to take any special action in regard to food hygiene. A comprehensive inspection of all food premises should be made as soon as possible.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Acting Medical Officer of Health

JOHN WILSON MORRISON, M.B., B.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

G. RAWLINSON, Cert. R.S.I. and S.I. Examination Joint Board; Cert. of R.S.I. Inspector of Meat and other Foods; M.S.I.A.

Clerk and Pupil Sanitary Inspector

H. F. L. DAVIES.

Rodent Operative and Disinfection Officer

J. HERON. Appointment established 19th December, 1950.

